

The Tabernacle Vail Exodus Chapter 26 Verses 31-33

Ex 26:31 ¶ "And thou shalt make a vail of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made: 32 And thou shalt hang it upon four pillars of shittim wood overlaid with gold: their hooks shall be of gold, upon the four sockets of silver. 33 And thou shalt hang up the vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the vail the ark of the testimony: and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy."

We see the vail, which separated the holy place from the most holy place, was made of the same material and pattern as the innermost curtain. Since the vail was made of the same materials and pattern as the innermost curtain, we know that it is representative of Jesus Christ. Remember the colors of the vail? Blue, Purple, and Scarlet. Purple is the color of kings and was the central color and is the color you get when you mix the colors blue and scarlet. Blue is the color of the heavenly and gives us the source of our eternal salvation coming down to earth from the heavens in the prepared body of Jesus Christ planted in the womb of the virgin Mary. Scarlet is the color of blood and reminds us that Jesus shed his blood on the cross for the eternal remission of the sins of God's people. Jesus coming to earth and shedding his blood for us, mixes together the colors of blue and scarlet, resulting in the color purple, which tells us that Jesus our king is risen. Consider: ***1Ti 6:13-16; 13 ¶ "I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; 14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: 15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; 16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen."*** Jesus is also our High Priest, as seen in: ***Heb 9:11-12; 11 "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."***

This vail created two separate places, the holy place and the most holy place. To access the holy place, you had to come by the altar of sacrifice, the laver, and through the first vail. The altar of sacrifice is representative of the place where Jesus, our High Priest and Saviour, offered his incarnate body, and shed his blood, to give us access to the holy place. The laver was the place for the priest to wash before entering the holy place, which speaks to us of the washing of regeneration and water baptism. The holy place speaks to us of the kingdom of God on earth, which we must enter, here in time, to be able to enter the most holy place in eternity. When you are born again, you become a priest and you are given entrance into the holy place. In the holy place you have access to the shew bread, and the right to eat thereof; just as, once you enter the church you have access to the Lord's Supper and the right to eat thereof. In the eternal resurrection of the dead in Christ, you will move from the holy place, which is the picture of the church, into the most holy place in eternity.

Since this vail is the entrance into the most holy place, it is representative of Jesus, as we are reminded of in the New Testament scripture: ***Joh 10:7-9; 7 "Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."*** What does this tell us today? Jesus is the only way that we can enter into the most holy place, which is a picture of our eternal home that Jesus has gone to prepare for us. We know the most holy place represents this because it was the place of God's presence and there will be no sin in God's presence. There will be nothing that is ungodly or corrupted in that place. It will be most holy unto us. Thank you, King Jesus, for your finished work on earth that has given us access to this most holy place for eternity. Hallelujah!

34 "And thou shalt put the mercy seat upon the ark of the testimony in the most holy place."

We see that the ark of the testimony, including the mercy seat upon it, was to be placed in the most holy place. Remember, the mercy seat was a lid to the ark of the testimony wherein were the Ten Commandments on the two tables of stone, written by God. The mercy seat had two cherubims, one on each end of the mercy seat, with their wings spread and stretching forth to meet the others in the center. They were facing inward looking toward the mercy seat. This configuration would have created an opening looking down from above and

created another opening looking at the ark from the front, the back, and both ends between the feet of the cherubim. Remember, God told Israel that through this opening he would communicate with them.

Jesus, our High Priest, came down from heaven and is representative of the mercy seat. Jesus's shed blood is what has blotted out our sins and removed us from under the penalty of eternal death for sin. This is why the mercy seat covered the ark of the testimony, to remind us that the shed blood of Jesus covered every time we break one of God's laws. The voice of God coming down from heaven, through the opening above, then hitting the mercy seat and passing out through all the openings brings the communication of God to us, and all the world. This gives us the picture of God speaking to his people, in all the world, through the Holy Spirit power in both Old and New Testament times. The Holy Spirit is who God, and Jesus, sent to earth to be the representative of Jesus after his resurrection and ascension back to heaven to be seated on the throne of God.

As God had told Moses that he would speak to Israel, from above the mercy seat, that his presence might be known to Israel, and they would know that God was with them. We remember also, the shekinah glory of God descended from heaven, in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, to manifest the presence of God with Israel. Today, Because of the indwelling Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ, and being given eyes that see, we have the revelation of the shekinah glory of God manifested in the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ, which descends, as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, upon our mercy seat, and upon the written word of God. Remember also that scripture tells us that Jesus is the Word, seen in: ***Joh 1:1 ¶ "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*** Remember the two tables of stone with the Ten Commandments were written by God, and likewise, the King James Bible has been written through the Holy Spirit power of God moving upon men to record what God would have us to know.

Because the ark of the testimony and the mercy seat are in the most holy place, where only the High Priest would enter once each year to offer sacrifice for the sins of all of God's people, we see that the prophesied Messiah was hidden from Israel's sight, and they only heard the voice of God. Since everything about the tabernacle is speaking to Israel, and to us, about Christ: we remember as Israel could not see Jesus, neither can we until the Holy Spirit power reveals him unto us. In other words: until we are born again, we are just like Old Testament Israel: we have blinded eyes. New Testament scripture testifies of this in the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, who met Jesus on the road to Damascus. When Jesus appeared to Saul, in his glorious presence shrouded from human sight by the light of his brightness, Saul was naturally blinded, yet spiritually he knew that it was Jesus. Why? Because he heard the voice of God speaking to him. When the word of God speaks to us through the Holy Spirit power of revelation, we know that we are hearing the voice of God.

35 And thou shalt set the table without the vail, and the candlestick over against the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south: and thou shalt put the table on the north side. 36 "And thou shalt make an hanging for the door of the tent, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework. 37 And thou shalt make for the hanging five pillars of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold, and their hooks shall be of gold: and thou shalt cast five sockets of brass for them."

We are told here of the items to be placed in the holy place, which are: the table for the shewbread and all its tools, and the candlestick. Remember that in the holy place there is light from the candlestick. However, there is no natural light in the most holy place. Why? It is the prophetic picture that Jesus has not yet been revealed as the light of the world. However, the most holy place was filled with the brightness of the glory of God. Today, Jesus himself is the light, and he needs no manmade fixture to give his brightness.

We are told that the door to the holy place is to be made of the same material as the innermost curtain, but it does not have the cunning work of the Cherubims woven into it, rather it was "***wrought with needlework.***"

As we are given the instructions for the tabernacle, we are also given the order in which it was to be set up. Thus, we see that the most holy place was set up on the westward end of the tabernacle, with the entrance into the holy place on the east end. Why did God give such explicit instructions of setting up the tabernacle? It was the common practice of the idolaters of the world to always be facing east when they worshipped their false gods. God is demonstrating to Israel that they are not to be like the idolaters. By reversing the order of the worship from the idolatrous worship order, God has Israel turning their backs to idolatry and directing all the worship of Israel to God.

Another reason is that when worshipping God facing westward, Israel was looking toward the going down of the sun. This gives us the prophetic picture that there was going to be an end, the sun would go down, upon the sacrificial law service. Remember, the sun goes down in the evening, but it rises again the next morning. Therefore, the going down of the sun on the sacrificial law service pointed to the dawning of a new age, the age of salvation by the grace of God. Remember that in the resurrection, of the prepared body of Jesus from the tomb, happened early in the morning of the third day as prophesied by scripture, setting the new age in motion.

This prophetic picture is the same for us. How? Israel was looking for the revealing of the Messiah when he came the first time in a body of flesh. We are looking westward, toward the going down of the sun on the age of salvation by grace, unto the second coming of Jesus Christ, which will be the rising of the eternal day of which Jesus is the light.

The tabernacle, as a whole, is a prophetic picture of the coming of the Church Of Salvation by Grace to be established by Jesus Christ. As we consider the materials, the way everything is joined together, we see the church encompassing all the earth and each Child of God found upon earth, as seen in: ***Eph 4:16 "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."***

In summary, we see that everything that is involved in the construction, and setting up, of the tabernacle is pointing us, and Israel, to Jesus Christ, and our eternal salvation. Remember also, God even prepared certain men to make the different components of the ark and the tabernacle. Likewise, God has selected certain people to build his kingdom of heaven on earth and in eternity.

Remember, that eventually the tabernacle was lost or discarded and with the building of the temple at Jerusalem the pattern was repeated in the building thereof. According to scripture and history, they doubled the size of the holy place and the most holy place. The temple vail, that allowed entrance into the most holy place, is the vail that was rent in twain, from the top to the bottom, when Jesus died upon the cross. The rending of the temple vail signified the end of the sacrificial law service, Christ entered in once for the remission of our sins, which allows God's people, in this new age of salvation by grace, to see the mercy seat, and to know that we are saved from our sins by the finished work of Jesus.

What a glorious picture of our eternal salvation we see, with the vail of the temple, its relationship to the other parts of the tabernacle complete, and its rending to reveal our Saviour and Lord, King Jesus. Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!